Beginning the Fourth Year.

PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS.

Monday, *March* 16. 166$\frac{7}{8}$.

The Contents.

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An Introduction

To the Fourth *Year of theſe Tracts.*

IN my firſt Number (of *March*, in the Year 1665.) I render'd the reaſons and purpoſes of theſe *Philoſophical Communications*. In the *Second* Year (beginning in *March A.* 1666. at *Numb.* 10.) I endeavour'd to revive and impreſs the Utility of theſe United Correſpondencies. In the *Third* year (beginning in *March A.* 1667.

at *Num.* 23.) I defended our Induſtry from the Obloquies of ſuch men, as prefer endleſs Contentions about words before the uſeful Works of the nobleſt Arts; and boaſt the Notions, yea, and oft-times the Cavils of *pore-blind* Heathen Writers, above the great and admirable Works of God.

Here, I think, I may from manifeſt appearances, without any great preſumption, ominate, That the following *Tracts* ſhall ſomewhat more ſatisfie the *Ingenuous*, than the former, for as much as my Philoſophical Commerce from time to time enlargeth it ſelf, and I am ſtill better and better furniſh'd with ſtore of judicious Correſpondents in the moſt conſiderable places of the World; and they are by the foregoing Tracts (eſpecially from *Numb.* 11. and ſeveral of thoſe that follow) better directed to afford true Aids, as alſo to ſend in good Anſwers to the Enquiries already made publick.

Yet I hope, even our *former Tracts* will not be very much blamed by ſuch, as ſhall be pleas'd to conſider, that *ſome* of them have already brought in ſeveral pertinent *Anſwers*; *viz.* from a *Sea-Voyage*, the *Caribbe*-Iſlands, and *Jamaica* in particular, the *Baltick*-Sea, our *Mendip*-Mines, *&c. Numb.* 19, 27, 30; that *others* of them do inſtruct, prepare, and enable, for ſevere Obſervations; *others* lay the ground for Philoſophical Advancements; *others* are accurate Exemplifications; and ſome of them contain divers valuable Particulars, which perhaps had otherwiſe been loſt, or drown'd in a worſe crowd of Impertinencies, or ſcatter'd in more coſtly *Volumes*. Certainly there are well-deviſed *Directions*, eſpecially proper for Sea-men and all Travellers, and ſuch as may pleaſingly and beneficially entertain them whilſt they are under Sail, or on their Land-Voyages; and they cannot be unacceptable to the Ingenious and Curious in our Colonies, and in other places of beſt note. All which may be ſeen in a ſhort view in the *Tables* annexed to *Numb.* 22. and 32.